Increase in MSP for rice

*33. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request either from the Government of Andhra or the Member of Parliament has been received to increase MSP for rice to Rs. 1,000/-;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the CACP has recommended Rs. 1,000 as MSP for wheat; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for not granting the same amount to rice?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister Andhra Pradesh, among other, has requested to increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy to Rs. 1000 per quintal.

Based on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the MSP for the year 2007-08 crop season was announced/fixed on 17th May, 2007 at Rs. 645 per quintal for paddy (Common) and at Rs. 675 per quintal for paddy (Grade A). With a view to enhance procurement of paddy, Government had also decided on 9th October, 2007 to pay an incentive bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal over and above the MSP.

For wheat, the Government has announced/fixed the Minimum Support Price of wheat on 9th October, 2007 for 2007-08 crop season at Rs. 1000 per quintal as per the recommendations of the CACP.

Ban on junk food

*34. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a blanket ban on junk food and colas in school and university canteens country-wide has been proposed by his Ministry and has written to State Health Ministers and Vice-Chancellors of leading universities asking them to plan and implement the ban on junk food, seen as one of the main causes of the rise in heart disease, diabetes and cancer among India's 300-million strong and increasingly wealthy middle class;

(b) whether his Ministry has also communicated to the Ministry of Human Resource Development to finalize proposal to make health and life style classes mandatory in schools; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to ban junk food and colas. However, Government is making efforts to discourage consumption of junk foods including carbonated beverages and make people aware of nutritious and healthy foods.

The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has written to Health Ministers of all States and UTs and Union Minister of Human Resource Development to consider issuing instructions for withdrawal of junk food and carbonated drinks from school and college canteens. Letters have also been written to Chief Ministers of all States and UTs to seriously consider issuing instructions to the Vice Chancellors of all Universities including Medical and Agricultural Universities of their respective States for withdrawal of junk food and carbonated drinks from canteens of educational institutions.

In view of the surge in life style diseases, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is of the view that there is a need to build health and life style classes mandatory in the school curriculum. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare proposes to have discussions with the Ministry of Human Resource Development in this regard.